


# LORAIN COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENTS

## Standard Operating Guidelines

Water Shuttle Operations	SOG: 013 Effective Date: 04/22/2004 Supersedes: N/A Approved:  President, Lorain County Fire Chiefs Association  Page 1 of 3
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### .10 PURPOSE

To assure a sufficient water supply for both rural and suburban fire incidents through effective use of water shuttle operations.

### .20 DIVISION AFFECTED

All Lorain County Fire, Rescue, EMS, and law enforcement agencies.

### .30 RESPONSIBILITIES

.31 All officers/supervisors are responsible to comply with and ensure that personnel under their command are adequately trained, fully understand, and comply with this guideline.

.32 All personnel have the responsibility to learn and follow this guideline.

### .40 PROCEDURE

.41 It will be the on-going responsibility of the Incident Commander to assign a Water Supply Officer (WSO) during water shuttle or relay operations. The water supply sector will be identified by the function, and will use the radio designation "Water Supply".

### .50 DUTIES OF WATER SUPPLY OFFICER

.51 The WSO is responsible for the following:

- Report to the Incident Commander and assume control over all water supply operations.
- Provide sufficient water at the fire scene, planning for availability and requirements at all locations. May use a set of files, showing water supply points and a listing of available mutual aid tankers.
- Assemble water-carrying equipment of mutual aid departments, calculating estimated arrival times of tankers, and have a working knowledge of available water supplies throughout a wide area of fire department jurisdiction.

- Determine from where and how water will be supplied, including use of water supply
  - Plan for contingencies.
- .52 The WSO can assign an Assistant WSO when the needs of a particular situation extends beyond their capability to directly control.
- .53 The WSO shall be identified by use of a red vest, indicating Water Supply.
- .54 The WSO shall:
- Pick a level location for dump tanks, far enough away from attack pumpers, and not blocking ingress/egress of other emergency vehicles.
  - Use water shuttle frequency for radio communications with all tanker drivers.
  - Have a list of participating tankers and their identification numbers.
  - Secure traffic control for the area.
  - Designate fill location(s) necessary for water supply and necessary apparatus for operations.
- .60 WATER SHUTTLE
- .61 An adequate amount of water for control and extinguishment of fire is a major consideration and will influence the majority of firefighting decisions. Since the job of fire extinguishment will require, on occasion, water carrying capacity beyond normal levels, a sound mutual aid program is necessary.
- .62 When building or buying water tankers, it is necessary that careful attention be given to standardization with operating equipment and to consider safety and serviceability. If satisfactory service is going to be obtained from tankers, the apparatus components such as baffling in the tanks and center of gravity are just as important as the rest of the truck.
- .63 Complex shuttle operations can develop a lot of hazardous situations. Because of this, the Incident Commander should assign a Safety Officer. The Safety Officer shall be responsible for monitoring and assessing hazardous and unsafe situations and developing measures for assuring personnel safety. The Safety Officer shall correct unsafe acts or conditions through the regular line of authority, although they may exercise emergency authority to stop or prevent unsafe acts when immediate action is required.
- .70 GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR WATER SHUTTLE
- .71 Water shuttle operations require the operation of various fire department vehicles in a timely, but safe, manner. In an effort to meet these requirements, the following procedures have been assembled to serve as a guideline with an emphasis on safety:

1. All responding units will not exceed posted speed limits.
2. Drivers shall drive in a safe manner. Speed and driving practices must be adjusted to road, weather and traffic conditions so that all responding units can be stopped and maneuvered before backing. All vehicle occupants shall wear seat belt and safety equipment.
3. Backup up of apparatus shall be avoided whenever possible. When backing up is unavoidable, a guide or assistant will be used to assist the driver. When no guide is available, the driver will walk to the rear of the apparatus to check before backing.
4. Under no circumstances, during a response, training exercise or any other operation, shall any personnel ride on the tailboard or a sideboard of any fire department apparatus.
5. Full protective clothing must be worn at all times when operating on the fireground or during training. Command may use discretion to regulate this in those situations where exemptions appear necessary, such as weather conditions which may compromise firefighters safety.
6. Helmets are required by all personnel, with the chin strap in place.
7. The Assistant Driver shall direct the Driver when backing the tanker.
8. Guides must never stand between portable tanks and the back of the apparatus.
9. The Driver, or if required the Assistant Driver, shall operate the dump valve controls, **only** after someone (Assistant WSO) gives them permission to do so.
10. A qualified driver shall remain in the driver's seat at all times, unless replaced by another driver.
11. When placing multiple dump tanks, make sure that they are placed close enough to use jet siphons.
12. Be careful not to damage the tank liner when installing the jet siphons.
13. Dump site pump operator will communicate with the attack pump operator as to when the supply of water is running low.
14. Dump tank pump operator will refill the booster tank as soon as possible while supplying water to the attack pumper.
15. Dump tank pump operator shall reserve 1/4 booster tank for the purpose of assisting in draft, and also to check the jet siphon when there is insufficient water in the dump tank to take draft.
16. Tankers that must pump off their water supply shall park clear of the path used by dump tankers. If there is no spot available to pump off the load, the tanker will remain clear of the dump tanks until there is an opening.
17. Fill site pump operator will not stop the pump between filling tankers. (Use a discharge line to return water to the pond or lake during this time.)
18. Open and close all valves slowly, to prevent water hammer.
19. Add a relief valve to prevent water hammer.
20. Contact Rural or City water departments when using a hydrants for filling.
21. Use attached Dump Site and Fill Site forms for all incidents and training.